



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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Memorandum

Date: August 2, 1999

To: James Lecky
Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Subject: CALFED Co-lead Agencies for Lower San Joaquin River/South Delta ERP Actions

CALFED has placed a high priority on implementation of Stage 1 actions in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region. This bundle of actions has been the focus of discussions at recent meetings of the CALFED Federal-State Small Group and the CALFED Policy Group.

The description of CALFED ecosystem restoration actions reviewed by the Small Group includes your agency as a federal co-lead for ecosystem and floodplain restoration. Other proposed lead agencies are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game. I am requesting a formal determination with respect to the proposed role of federal co-lead for your agency for the purpose of initiating the CEQA/NEPA project planning process.

We are drafting an ambitious schedule for proceeding with ecosystem and floodplain restoration in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region. It is our hope to file a Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation for the project by the end of August, and begin public scoping sessions in early October. Thus, it is imperative to expeditiously resolve the issue of which agencies shall serve as lead state and federal agencies for project planning purposes. I will place this item on the agenda for our Small Group meeting on August 3, 1999 with the goal of confirming project lead agencies at that time.

Staff level coordination should also begin immediately. Please advise the Small Group as to whom you would select from your staff to be designated as NMFS staff coordinator for CALFED ecosystem and floodplain restoration in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration